

# 2nd Bn., 6th ADA unveils new track

WILSON A. RIVERA

Monitor Staff

“Double-time” running cadences could be heard as Maj. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg led 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, in their first lap around the unit’s new one-eighth-mile track at Soldiers Field during an unveiling ceremony Friday.

More than \$670,000 was spent on the track’s soft running surface and the interior’s green synthetic turf. Construction lasted three months, and the track replaced a previously vacant and dry lot.

“We appreciate our chain of command’s support and all the entities across post that helped us put this field together,” said Lt. Col. Randall A. McIntire, 2nd Bn., 6th ADA commander. “We believe that we will get a great return out of our investment; the use of the area is truly limitless.”

The multi-functional field may be used for physical training, combatives, sporting events and formations; nevertheless, its main purpose is to be used for a PT rehab program for Soldiers undergoing their advanced individual training here.

Some Soldiers arrive from basic combat training experiencing lower extremity problems, and getting these Soldiers to pass the running portion of the



WILSON A. RIVERA

**The 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery forms up for the unveiling of the unit's new one-eighth-mile track, to be used for sporting events, combatives and rehab purposes.**

Army Physical Fitness Test can present some challenges, said McIntire. The track is easily accessible and supervised by instructors, providing optimal conditions for proper rehab and allowing Soldiers to progress and better themselves, he said.

“More importantly, this will allow us and that potential struggling Soldier to have that ability to

overcome that challenge, and honor their commitment of serving in our Army,” said McIntire.

McIntire’s said intentions are to help Soldiers to graduate and provide the operational force with a precious commodity and help with the Army’s attrition rates.

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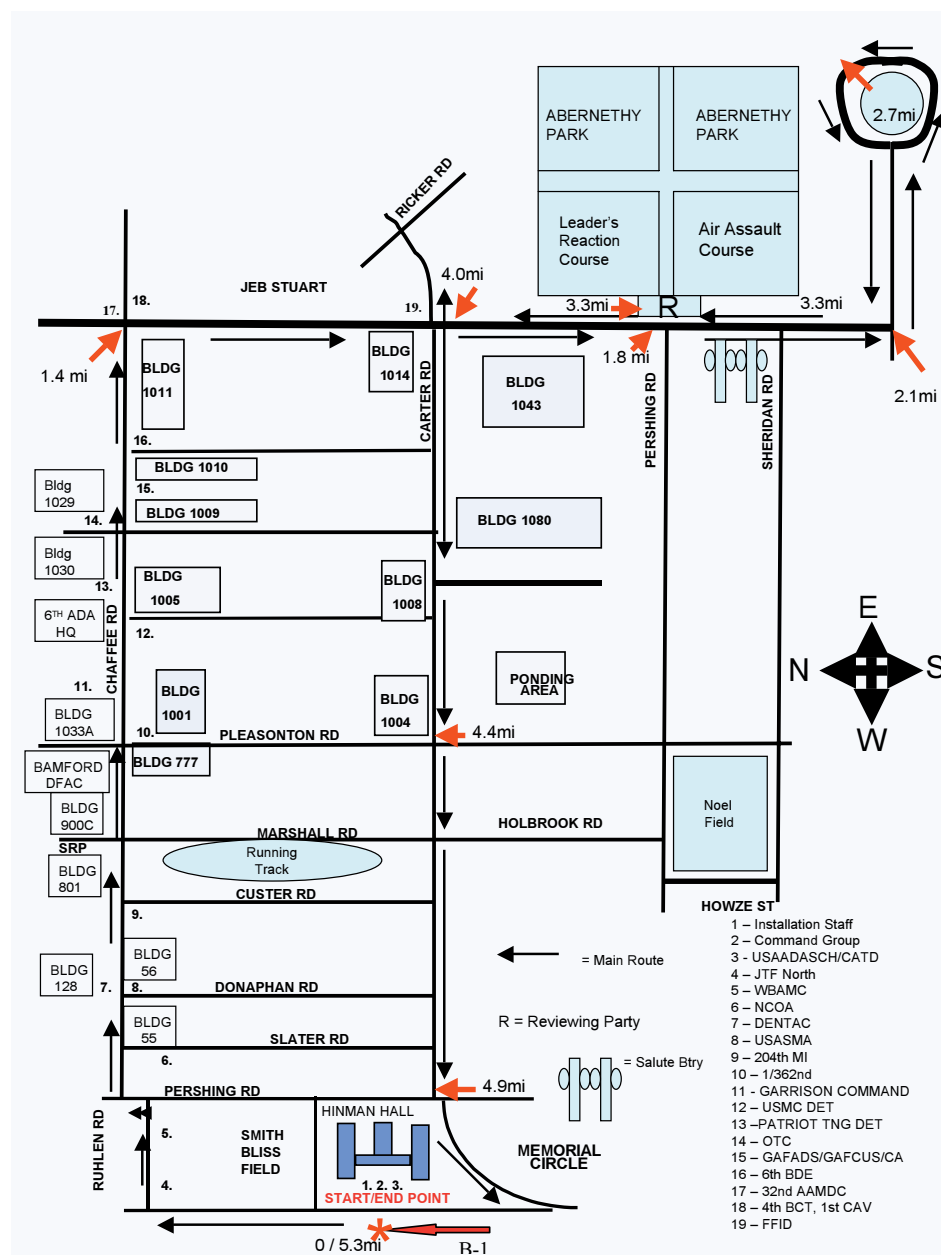
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# Engineer sees hospital as 'once-in-lifetime' project

JOHN CONNOR

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq

BASRA, Iraq – The Basra Children's Hospital project can get its hooks into people. Take Lt. Col. Kenneth McDonald, for example. He's an area deputy commander in the Gulf Region Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and he leads the Basra Area Office in the division's southern district.

Part of his job is overseeing the Basra Children's Hospital project, one of the highest-profile, most complex and potentially most rewarding projects undertaken by USACE in its four years in Iraq. McDonald extended his tour in Iraq to two years from one to help bring the project to a successful conclusion.

"Where else, as an engineer, would you want to be?" asked McDonald, who taught in the civil and mechanical engineering department at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., before coming to Iraq in 2006.

The hospital is designed and being built as a 94-bed pediatric tertiary-care-referral hospital with a focus on pediatric oncology. Intended to support the population of southern Iraq, including Basra, the country's second-largest city, the facility will also be a training center capable of improving and expanding the training of health professionals throughout Iraq.

In a very real sense, the project is about children. "Sick kids," said McDonald, citing the grim statistic that 15 out of 100 children in southern Iraq die before the age of 5. Childhood cancers are eight to 10 times more common in Iraq than in the West.

Arthur Bennett, the USACE project manager for the hospital, told colleagues at home in a message from Iraq not long ago that "our customer for the project is the Iraqi government, but I really see it as the children." First lady Laura Bush, a leading supporter of the hospital, said "every country's success depends upon the health and well-being of its children."

The imperative of caring for children is widely shared across the Basra community. There were rumors in the city in 2006 the hospital job site was a CIA headquarters, and the word was out on the street an attack was imminent. But local citizens and religious leaders of several faiths rallied and Iraqi flags were flown. No attack came then or later – even when British troops battled militants near the hospital.

"The mothers and wives leverage real power," McDonald said in recounting how popular sentiment has rallied behind and protected the project. "Not once has the hospital ever been attacked."

McDonald arrived in Basra just as the hospital project was being revived after stalling out. USACE was selected to lead the effort to get the project restarted and completed. He was greeted on the way in by an improvised explosive device.

"My first day after arriving in Tallil and then driving to Basra, we were hit, but sustained minimal damage," he recalled, adding that he wondered what he'd gotten himself into.

The city has more than its share of indirect fire attacks, with more than



MOHAMMED ALIWI

**Workers take a lunch break while others work at the Basra Children's Hospital, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project in Iraq's Basra province.**

1,000 mortar rounds landing on Contingency Operating Base Basra over the summer.

"The surreal becomes normal," McDonald said of the attacks, which in his time have seen four rounds land directly in Camp Blackadder, the USACE compound in Basra. He said the attacks have "bonded the team" and the USACE contingent in Basra is "very proactive in procedures" to avoid casualties. "No one does not do the drill," he said.

The motto at Camp Blackadder, "Living the Dream," captures the spirit of a team proud of its mission and aware of its circumstances.

McDonald has no doubt the hospital will be completed successfully and will

be "a jewel in the crown of Basra." The hospital project is being conducted in conjunction with partners including Project Hope, a nongovernmental organization, and the United Nations Development Program, which is managing a \$21.75 million contribution by the Spanish government. The project will have state-of-the-art equipment. U.S.-funded construction is 77 percent complete.

Before extending his tour, McDonald said, he did a lot of soul searching. He concluded with respect to the hospital job that "something as significant as this comes only once a lifetime."

McDonald consulted his family.

See **ENGINEER**, Page 20



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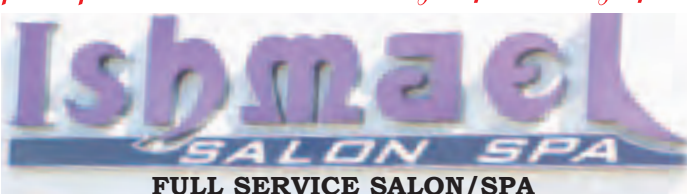
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# U.S. Sailor helps save African woman

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS R.J. STRATCHKO

Africa Partnership Station Public Affairs

PORT GENTILE, Gabon – A Sailor stationed on board the amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry was recognized Jan. 17 for helping save the life of a local Gabonese woman.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Saucedo, a storekeeper, received the award from Gabonese Chief of Naval Forces Capt. Paul Biving Nziengu and U.S. Navy Capt. John Nowell, commander of Africa Partnership Station.

Saucedo was on liberty at Sogara Beach Jan. 14 with three other Africa Partnership Station Sailors when they witnessed four men carrying someone from the water.

“As we walked up to the crowd of people on the beach, they saw my dog tags and said, ‘U.S. Marines, U.S. Marines,’” he said. Saucedo immediately administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

“I checked her pulse and airway,” he said. “Then I tilted her head back, and somebody volunteered to do mouth-to-

mouth while I did chest compressions. Shortly after, the water gushed out of her nose, and she came to. As soon as she started regaining consciousness, we made sure she was OK, and then tried to get additional medical help.”

Saucedo described the whole experience as scary but credited his reaction to the training he received in the U.S. Navy.

“I was afraid when I began chest compressions, but my training just kicked in,” he said.

The basic life-saving training that Saucedo received is the same training Africa Partnership Station is teaching maritime professionals from West and Central African countries.

Saucedo said he believes anyone who happens upon such a situation needs to do something about it. “Always try to do your best, even if you are not the one giving CPR,” he said. “Do something to help; don’t just walk by.”

“Petty Officer Saucedo’s actions exemplify what APS is all about, building trust with the African people so that we can strengthen collaborative partnerships,” Nowell said.



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS R.J. STRATCHKO

**Capt. Paul Biving Nziengu, left, chief of Gabonese naval forces, thanks Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Saucedo, right, for saving the life of a Gabonese civilian on Sogara Beach, Gabon. U.S. Navy Capt. John Nowell, center, commander of Africa Partnership Station, also was on hand to recognize Saucedo at the Jan. 17 ceremony.**

## Engineer

Continued from Page 19

“What do you think I should do?” he asked his wife, Col. Deborah McDonald, a West Point classmate who is the director of admissions at the U.S. Military Academy, and their two children, Anna, 19, and Joshua, 14. Both children are following in their parents’ footsteps. Anna has a four-year ROTC scholarship at Seton Hall

University, and Joshua is in the Junior ROTC program at his high school.

“We are all very proud of Kenny,” his wife said. “With pride comes a sense of accomplishment and commitment. Certainly, Kenny has shown that to us and to the men and women he works with.”

She said her husband sent back a video of the hospital project and “everyone saw it,” including her

daughter’s ROTC detachment. “It was a wonderful message to show our future officer corps – and helped focus their minds on what their futures might hold,” she said.

But it hasn’t been easy, she acknowledged.

“It has been a family commitment – and a struggle at times,” she said. “We completely support Kenny in his efforts and are thankful that he not only

has the expertise but the drive to provide this critical support to such a worthy project.

“As with any long-term deployment, it is tough on both the deployed and those at home,” she said. “We know that he will return with a lasting legacy of not only a family who is immensely proud of him, but the knowledge that he stayed committed to the project through its completion.”

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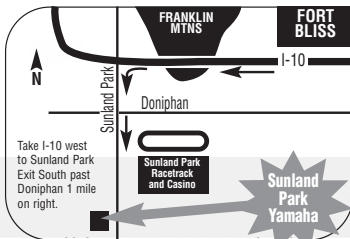
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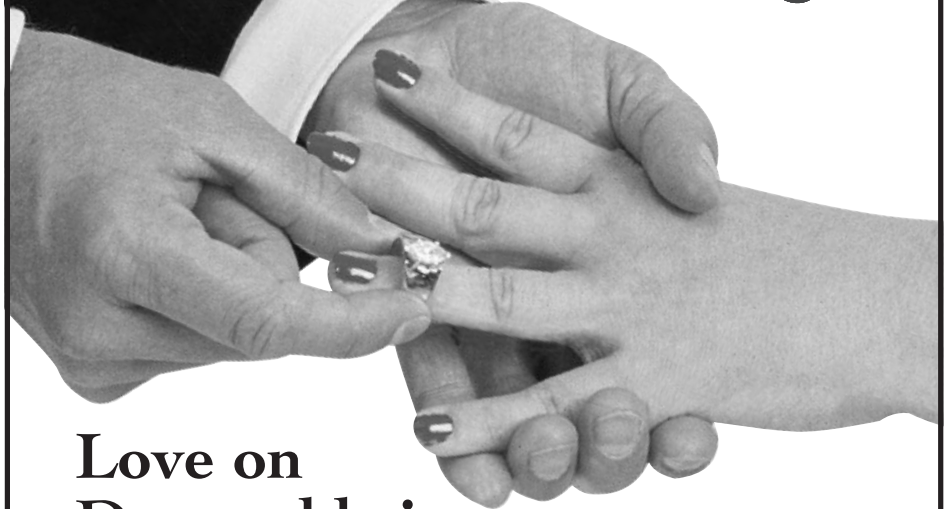
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WILSON A. RIVERA

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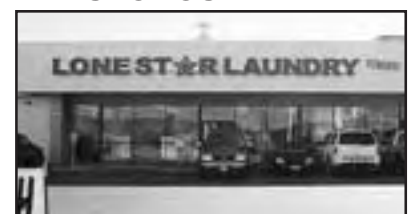
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# Army spouse writes about deployment struggles

ELIZABETH M. LORGE

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – When Soldiers march off to war, so do their spouses, writes one Army wife in her new book. They fight to stay connected with their Soldiers across miles and distance, and to survive on their own.

In *365 Deployment Days: A Wife's Survival Story*, Sara Dawalt chronicles the loneliness, anger and worry that nearly destroyed her marriage while her husband Brandon, a captain, was deployed with Fort Hood's 1st Cavalry Division in 2004, and her eventual triumph over it all.

Dawalt wrote the book to help people and it's a useful handbook for spouses and Soldiers on the emotions to expect, what to do and what not to do. Civilians should read it too, she said, so they understand what military families go through.

"The husbands need to read this book, or the wives, whoever is the Soldier, so they understand what their spouse is going through, because Brandon had no idea. I think a lot of times the guys get over there and it's easy for them to compartmentalize their lives and if they don't call or they don't e-mail, it's easier for them to focus on what they're doing and forget that they're where they are. It's going to take husbands and wives communicating and really, really talking to figure out what they can do for each other to make it through it," she said in an interview.

She knew her husband would eventually deploy after Sept. 11, 2001, and after he received his orders to deploy in March 2004, she began to withdraw and

argue with him about little things. "On more than one occasion, I shouted at him 'Just go!' Of course I didn't want him to go, but knowing it was out there and drawing nearer every day was swallowing me alive. The only way I found to express my frustration was to scream," she wrote.

Dawalt described barely being able to handle waiting with her husband for their final goodbye when the departure date arrived. At one point she almost went home because she couldn't bear it any longer. But after his unit left, the loneliness was crushing.

"I was alone," she wrote. "Totally, completely and utterly alone, and there was nothing I could do about it ... I felt the overwhelming urge to talk to someone, anyone, to decompress and rant about the unbelievable night I had just experienced. I felt so many emotions that I thought I was going to explode, but who do you call at four in the morning? No one I knew ... instead, I huddled up with my dog, cried and tried to sleep."

Dawalt provides a window into her daily life during the deployment: her daily jumble of emotions, her erratic sleep schedule, the healing power of exercise, retail therapy and the sanity-saving companionship of her dog.

Her life became about the deployment, and not only because of her worry and loss. She couldn't watch the news. Friends she hadn't heard from in years called to check up on her, but most people wanted to know about her husband. If they remembered to ask how she was doing, it was usually an afterthought.

"Of course, they should ask about

him and be concerned about him, but I really felt like I was just disappearing in his deployment. I was like, 'Hey, I'm a person too.' So I'm hoping that by reading, more and more people will start to understand. I think that's the biggest thing. People need to know to ask about the person who's still here, trying to hold the life together," she said.

However painful life is, Dawalt warns spouses against shutting themselves in. A support network is crucial, she said, and spouses should spend time with their friends and doing activities they enjoy. Nor should spouses be afraid to take vacations on their own or with battle buddies, or plan trips after their spouses' return. It will make the time go faster, she said.

But husbands and wives have to find ways to stay connected, she said. Her new found independence came with a price as instant messaging and Web cameras, interspersed with a couple calls a month, were not enough communication for her.

As the months stretched out, she realized that she felt less and less like a wife. She still loved her husband, but she couldn't cope. She didn't want to talk about her feelings because she didn't want to worry him or distract him while he was in combat.

"It's really hard to reconcile," she said. "You feel like you're being pulled in two different directions. You want your independence and you like your independence. You're part of a married couple, but you're not because he's not physically there. It was very hard for me and that's when I started reflecting on myself and my life and realizing I



COURTESY PHOTO

Fort Hood, Texas, spouse Sara Dawalt writes about surviving her husband's deployment in her new book.

couldn't wait for him for my life to start."

She was so afraid she would let her feelings show, she barely wanted her husband to come home for rest and relaxation. When she finally did break down, right before he returned to Iraq, she said it was the best thing that could have happened to her marriage. She and her husband talked honestly and he understood how hard life was on the homefront. They found ways to talk regularly for the rest of his deployment, and talked almost daily during his second deployment, which just ended.

"My husband has volunteered to be a hero every day, and I couldn't be prouder of him," Dawalt said.



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# Army family support reaches new level, goes virtual

ELIZABETH M. LORGE

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – In an age of persistent conflict and geographically-dispersed families, the Army is taking family support to a new level with virtual installations and virtual Family Readiness Groups.

The Army Reserve wants to create local and Web-based virtual installations where families, who may live hundreds of miles from the nearest installation, can access the same support and resources as active-duty Soldiers and families, such as Tricare, child and youth services, counseling and chaplain's programs, and financial and legal information.

"We need to retain these Soldiers and you do that by retaining the families," said Laura Stultz, wife of Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz. "If the families feel secure, the Soldier won't worry about them, and the families will know that their problems will be looked into. They need the same services that active-component families have on an installation because their Soldiers are putting their lives on the same line as everybody else. They deserve the same degree of help and resources."

She added that they want to have a zip-code-based system online, similar to the search function on [www.MyArmyLifetoo.com](http://www.MyArmyLifetoo.com), where Soldiers and families can enter their zip codes into the Web site and find the nearest place to get help and the nearest FRG, whether it is active-duty, Reserve or National Guard.

The next step would be to set up Army Reserve mini-centers in towns and cities across America, which would function like Army Community Service offices, repositories for community support, emergency relief and even places families can go to renew their military IDs.

"I was just insistent that there be some place that you can have face-to-face meetings with people. A lot of people don't have access to a computer, or English is their second language, or they just don't know how to explain their needs on the telephone. I wanted there to be offices or some place across the country where families could go to and talk to somebody live.

"In my experience, there are veterans who say 'What can we do to help?' In some instances, all we'll need to get is a computer and a telephone hookup for them; and others it will be finding a place. Some towns we can use the National Guard centers or the veterans' halls, but if there's no place to put it, we might have to find our own office space, in a shopping center or something people can find easily. Hopefully in a few years, everyone will know where it is, just like they know where the post office is," Stultz said.

Right now, the Reserve is beginning focus groups with families to see where they want these centers and what they want online. Ideally, the Reserve would begin building the centers near the heaviest Reserve population centers that are far from installations.

Located two hours from the nearest FRG with four young children during her husband's deployments to the Persian Gulf and the Balkans in the Nineties, Stultz knows how hard it can be to fit crucial support meetings into busy schedules.

Per the request of families, especially children and teenagers, she and the Reserve are looking to find ways to incorporate chat rooms on the Web site, and plan to add this feature as soon as they work out security issues.

Chat rooms, blogs and instant messag-



SGT. ROBERT J. STRAIN

**Capt. Hwajin Hurt, HHC, III Corps, welcomes her husband Capt. Donnie Joe Hurt, the assistant operations officer for the 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., Nov. 15, after he returned from a 15-month deployment in Iraq.**

ing are also a goal of virtual FRGs, said Shaunya Murrill, the automation manager for the family programs directory at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command. She also runs a virtual FRG for her husband's Indianapolis Recruiting Battalion.

Tested in 2004 and launched Army-wide in 2006, virtual FRGs are paid for by FMWRC and are a way for commanders, rear detachment commanders and family readiness leaders to provide up-to-date information to families, even if they are geographically spread out, as with the Reserve component.

"It was never designed to replace the FRG, but it's an extension of it," said Murrill. "Family members can find out what's going on with their unit by logging in. This is an opportunity for the commander to stay connected. I think it's been a valuable tool to my husband and his colleagues because they don't necessarily have the time to have a lot of meetings or the funding to bring in families from across the state. So this is an opportunity for them to get relevant, pertinent and timely information out.

"If you want to get involved, you see what's available, you see the calendar, you jump in if you want to, and if you don't, you don't have to," she continued. "Before, with the telephone tree, when people were doing it only the old way, people would leave and kind of fall off."

To date, there are about 1,200 sites and 117,000 registered users throughout the Army. Commanders at the battalion level and up simply must fill out an application at [www.ArmyFRG.org](http://www.ArmyFRG.org), provide a point of contact and some basic information, and Murrill and her team set up the site. They provide tutorials for the site manager and any necessary technical support.

The sites typically include news articles, photos, hyperlinks, frequently-asked questions and updates from commanders. FMWRC is still working on the security issues related to blogs and chat rooms, but the sites can have monitored forums.

Virtual FRGs have undergone the Defense Information Technology Certification Information Accreditation Process and are completely secure. Soldiers provide a list of loved ones in writing and the system automatically generates an invitation to the unit site, complete with hyperlink. The list can include anyone the Soldier wants: the spouse, but also parents and siblings, for example.

The best thing about the virtual FRGs, Murrill said, is that instead of families having to wait for their Soldiers to tell them about events or new initiatives, the families are often updating the Soldiers.





STAFF SGT. JON CUPP

‘Eye’ want to know

Keeping his eyes peeled for anything suspicious, Spc. Frank Maier, a native of Katy, Texas, and a scout for A Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pulls security in Ath Alba, Iraq, a village north of Baghdad, during a joint cordon-and-search operation with Iraqi troops from 2nd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized).



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# Cav. pilot receives Distinguished Flying Cross

**SGT. NICOLE KOJETIN**

1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – A 1st Cavalry Division AH-64D Longbow Apache pilot got word that two of his friends, fellow pilots, were shot down during a fierce battle in Najaf, a city in Iraqi army control south of Baghdad, Jan. 28, 2007.

Not thinking of his personal safety and facing an unknown enemy force, Chief Warrant Officer Zachary Johnson sprang into action, which resulted in him being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center exactly a year later.

Johnson, the pilot in charge and a unit commander from 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, was commended for his role in that battle as he worked with Iraqi army troops, U.S. special operation forces and U.S. Air Force joint terminal attack controllers to determine the location of friendly and enemy forces while protecting the site of the crash that took the lives of his friends, Capt. Mark Resh and Chief Warrant Officer Cornell Chao.

"The odds were against us," Division Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr. said, noting the enemy had around 600 soldiers in well-fortified, dug-in positions.

There was a fierce ground battle

under way, and the Iraqi soldiers and U.S. troops on the ground needed air support. Johnson and his crew were that support.

In eight minutes, Johnson led his team from Forward Operating Base Kalsu to the battlefield.

"Those were the longest eight minutes of my life," he said. "There was sadness because I just lost some of my friends. I was worried about my friends who were still there. I was scared."

But he didn't show it.

Johnson orchestrated more than an hour of organized attacks before running completely out of ammunition. His team flew back to FOB Kalsu, re-armed and went back out into the fight.

"He had nerves of steel," Fil said of Johnson after watching the performance on screen at Johnson's award ceremony. "He was calm, reasonable and making sound decisions."

But he didn't feel calm.

"I thought my voice was shaking, and I was thinking about a million things at once," Johnson said. "But like the movie *Black Hawk Down*, when the bullets are flying, you just do your job. I tried to stay level-headed and cool under the pressure."

The enemy had dug trenches that were 12 to 15 feet deep in a zigzag pattern to prevent air support from firing in a straight line all the way through. Fil



SGT. NICOLE KOJETIN

Army Chief Warrant Officer Zachary Johnson, right, a pilot with 4th Bn., 227th Aviation Regt., 1st Cav. Div., gets pinned with the Distinguished Flying Cross by Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., 1st Cav. Div.'s commander, at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center Jan. 28. Johnson, was rewarded for his leadership and skills during a large battle in Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 28, 2007.

said the insurgents were well-equipped and organized with supplies and medical stations, but the enemy was virtually destroyed.

That opened up the road to a successful deployment for 1st Cav. Div., the general said. "I can't imagine how much more difficult it would have been for us if we had lost," he said.

On a smaller scale, it made a huge difference for the people in the city.

"The governor met me, and was sobbing. Not out of sadness, not out of anger, but out of thankfulness," he said.

That wouldn't have been possible without the skills and professionalism of Johnson and his team, Fil said. "I have never been associated with anyone more deserving of the Distinguished Flying Cross than Chief Warrant Officer Johnson," he said.

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# Strategists brought together for Flames of War games

MIKE STRASSER

Fort Lee Public Affairs

Fort Lee, Va. – This is not a game where you move red pegs along a board to sink your opponent’s battleship. The Flames of War miniatures game requires battlefield strategy, tactical reasoning and just a little luck to ensure one’s miniscule “band of brothers” survives the war.

The U.S. Army Women’s Museum brought a group of such strategists together Jan. 19 for the third annual Flames of War Day.



A competitor surveys the destruction he caused to his opponent’s forces as he determines his next move.

“The Relief of Stalingrad was the theme of this year’s competition, and recreated that ferocious fight between the Soviet Union and the Axis forces on the Russian front in October to November of 1942,” said Ron Bingham, tournament organizer at the museum. “The Germans held Stalingrad but were surrounded as the Russians prevailed. Over a million German troops were killed or captured.”

After several hours of scenarios varying from free-for-all skirmishes to a trench fight, history was altered at the museum when the Germans won the battle over the Soviets. Joe Berry from Virginia Beach earned the first German victory of the day by forcing the Russians to retreat from the battlefield. Berry brought with him a Panzer-Grenadier company to wage war with, but his collection also includes Patton’s Third Army and the 101st Airborne Division – depending on the tournament he is playing in. Shan Palmatier earned two victories for the Soviets. First using his anti-tank guns against the German Panzers in a free-for-all, then engaging in what he described as “a meat grinder,” Palmatier defended his ground for the win. Palmatier traveled from Silver Spring, Md., for the tournament and said the competition is always enjoyable and worth the drive.

“It’s also a good thing that I have a very forgiving wife,” he said.

J.D. and Patrick Martin had a shorter deployment from Chester, Va., and were the tournament’s only father-son team. Patrick, 15, was also the youngest among the players.



PHOTOS BY MIKE STRASSER

Two Flames of War competitors discuss tactics at the U.S. Army Women’s Museum at Fort Lee, Va., as they wage battle against each other in a city scenario.

“Our second battle was not quite the massacre as the first,” said Patrick, midway through the second round.

The Martins lost their first battle but recouped after the lunch break for a close victory with their German SS Panzer Company from the Wiking Division. Things were bleak when their opponent brought in the Russian reserves, but timely air support and some good dice rolls ended the fight in their favor.

After battles were decided, competitors watched the outcome of other games or discussed lessons learned and strategies from previous scenarios.

Most players are incredibly knowledgeable of the actual events behind the battles, and the miniatures are crafted and detailed with historical authenticity, said Bingham. An added bonus, he said, was that it provided an opportunity for the gamers to learn a little quartermaster history at the Women’s Museum and the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum as well.

“This was certainly a plus for us at the museum because it not only brought them in for the competition, but they – as well as the family and friends who came to watch – were able to tour both museums.”

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## Army Traffic Safety Training Program developed to keep Soldiers safe

### SOLDIERS MEDIA CENTER

WASHINGTON – What is it? Army Traffic Safety Training Program was fielded in September to standardize Army driver safety training through a series of mandatory driver training courses critical to the Army's Driving as a Life Skill campaign. The five courses – introductory, local hazards, intermediate, advanced and supervisor – also fulfill regulatory requirements related to accident prevention.

What has the Army done? The primary means for completing these courses is through classroom training provided by contracted instructors at selected installations. An alternate delivery method is available on DVD from the Installation Management Command Safety Office. This method should be used only where IMCOM-contracted

instructors are not available.

ATSTP also includes a mandatory basic and optional experienced rider motorcycle course combining classroom instruction with actual motorcycle riding under very controlled conditions to maximize student learning.

What efforts does the Army plan to continue in the future? ATSTP administrators are firmly committed to supporting Army senior commanders for all their driver training needs. IMCOM is developing a mobile surge capability of trainers, motorcycles and portable classrooms to satisfy additional demands. IMCOM is also developing a centralized online registration system within the ATSTP Web site to make it easier for Soldiers and their supervisors to sign up for ATSTP courses. Until these capabilities are operational, senior commanders should continue to use local installation procedures to register Soldiers for ATSTP courses. Early identification of upcoming requirements, particularly while still downrange, will ensure ATSTP training resources are available when needed.

Why is this important to the Army? Motor vehicle accidents and fatalities remain the greatest non-combat related loss category for the Army. In FY 2007, 109 Soldiers were killed in privately-owned motor vehicle crashes. ATSTP was created to reverse this disturbing statistic. The program is a joint effort between the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, which analyzed the loss history and designed the curriculum, and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, which implements the program throughout the Army. One key goal of the program is to standardize driver safety training for all Soldiers and civilians across all Army installations and commands. In only its second year of implementation, Army POV fatalities were 22 percent fewer in FY 2007 compared to 140 fatalities experienced in FY 2005.

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STAFF SGT. ANTONIETA RICO

On the o-fence-ive

A U.S. Army Soldier breaches a gate with a shot-gun during a raid in Mushada, Iraq. Soldiers now use the new anti-material cartridge, the M1030, designed as a breaching munition, used for defeating wooden doors, deadbolts, knobs, hinges and padlock hasps while minimizing ricochet hazards.

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# TEXAS VS. THE NATION

*College football all-stars  
come out to play*

Story and Photos by Heather Wilburn

**T**he old adage "Don't mess with Texas" held true Saturday as Texas crushed The Nation 41-14 in the second annual Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge.

More than 25,000 football fans turned out to see the game, where about 100 of college football's finest competed for bragging rights and a chance to impress scouts looking to sign promising players to professional teams. Among those fans were many Soldiers from Fort Bliss, which received a donation of 10,000 tickets from game sponsor Western Refining.

Fort Bliss Soldiers and other servicemen and women took part in the event in other ways, as well. Soldiers from 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division (Army Evaluation Task Force), 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, and other units were among those presenting static displays before the game. The displays included an M1A2 SEP tank, an Avenger air defense weapon system, a Patriot launching system and more, along with displays from Army and Air Force recruiters.

An All-Service Color Guard presented the colors during pre-game ceremonies while the 62nd Army Band performed the national anthem. A flyover by two F-117A Nighthawks followed "The Star-Spangled Banner." Maj. General Howard B. Bromberg, Fort Bliss commanding general, and Col. Jeffrey L. Harrigan, commander of Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., took part in the coin toss that determined which team would first have possession of the football.

A Soldier also had the opportunity to call the 30th play of the game for a chance to win a \$10,000 donation to the Wounded Warriors Program. Sgt. Maj. John McClure made the call, but The Nation's offense was unable to convert – a recurrent theme throughout the game.

A back-and-forth defensive battle led to a scoreless first quarter. Early in the second quarter, Texas' Danny Amendola of Texas Tech, named Offensive Player of the Game, opened the day's scoring on a 28-yard reception from Texas quarterback Adam Tafralis of San Jose State University. The Nation responded quickly as their Darnell Blackman of North Carolina State University took Texas' kickoff and returned it for 97 yards and a touchdown, tying the game at 7-7.

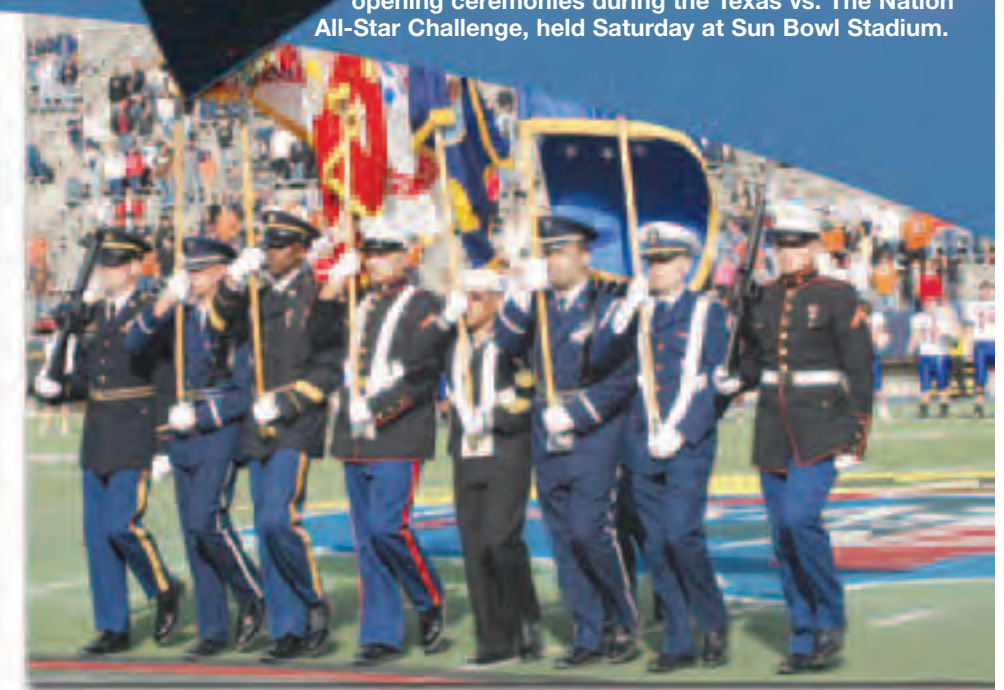
Texas retook the lead with about a minute left in the first half when Adrian Smith, a running back from Bethel (Tenn.) College, scored on a 4-yard run set up by an interception by Darien Williams, a defensive back from the University of Oklahoma, that gave Texas the ball on The Nation's 15-yard line.

After halftime, the game was all Texas, all the time. The team scored 27 unanswered points to take the title 41-14, evening the series score with The Nation, which won last year's contest 24-20.

Maj. General Howard B. Bromberg, Fort Bliss commanding general, left, and Col. Jeffrey L. Harrigan, commander of Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., watch the coin toss at the start of Saturday's Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge.



Soldiers from 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 5th Brigade (Army Evaluation Task Force), 1st Armored Division, held children climb aboard an M1A2 SEP tank during pre-game activities at Saturday's Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge.



An All-Service Color Guard presents the colors as part of the opening ceremonies during the Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge, held Saturday at Sun Bowl Stadium.



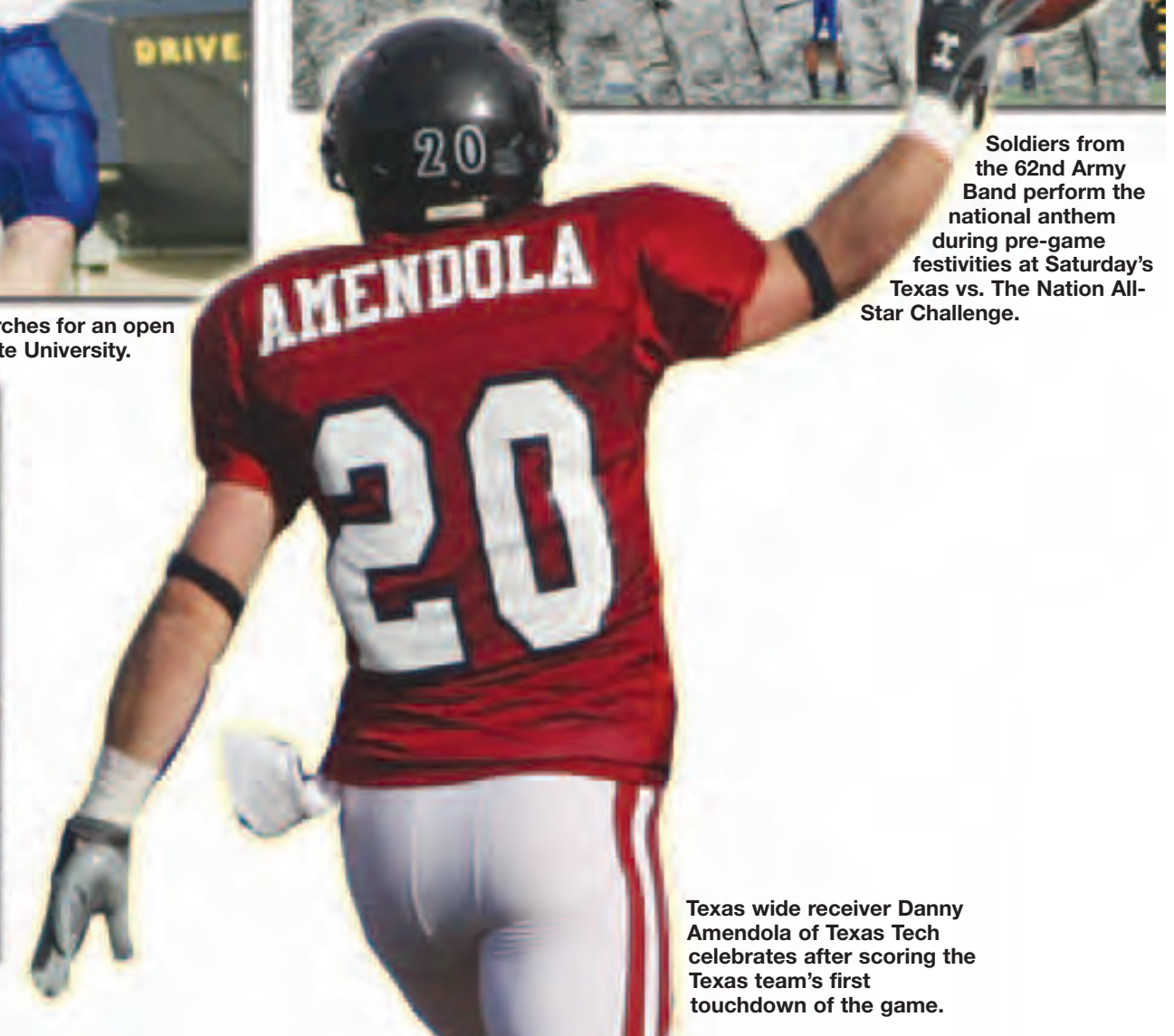
Nation quarterback Blake Mitchell of the University of South Carolina searches for an open receiver as he evades Texas defensive tackle Jason Shirley of Fresno State University.



A group of Fort Bliss Soldiers enjoys the action at the Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge, held Saturday at Sun Bowl Stadium.



Soldiers from the 62nd Army Band perform the national anthem during pre-game festivities at Saturday's Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge.



Texas wide receiver Danny Amendola of Texas Tech celebrates after scoring the Texas team's first touchdown of the game.

